Creation of more States

4658. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Miniser of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the reconstruction of the States;

(b) whether some States are proposed to be created;

(c) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(d) the details of the proposal before Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) The Government has approved, in principle, the proposals for the creation of new States of Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhattisgarh. The Govenrment has also decided that the Union Territory of Delhi be granted full Statehood except for National Capital Territory which will be administered by the Central Govenrment. Further necessary action in the matter is being taken. A proposal to grant Statehood to the Union Territory of Pondicherry is also under consideration.

Grants by Ford Foundation

4659. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Miniser of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ford Foundation give grants to organisations and individuals in India; and

(b) if so, the names and addresses of the recipients of such grants year-wise, alongwith purpose and the amounts of grant during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Ford Foundation extends grant assistance mainly to non-governmental organisations, research institutions, Govenrment agencies and Universities in areas of agriculture and rural development, health and population, planning and management, education and culture etc.

(b) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the table of the House.

Digital Trunked Radio System for Delhi Police

4660. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:
SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:

Will the Miniser of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 109 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd June, 1998, and state:

(a) whether the proposal to purchase UHF Digital Trunked Radio System for Delhi Police has since been considered;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the proposal will be decided;

(c) whether the present Radio System being used by Delhi Police has failed several times recently and if so, the reasons for its breakdown; and

(d) whether the failure of old system led to several crimes during the last three months, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The proposal to purchase UHF Digital Trunked Radio System for Delhi Police is in the advanced stage of finalisation.

(c) No, Sir. Delhi Police have confirmed that their existing Radio System did not fail or bread-down in recent months.

(d) Does not arise.

Article 355

4661. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Miniser of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2354 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th July, 1998, and state:

(a) whether any codification on the objective criteria has been made to decide on the despatch of Central teams of States to study the law and order situation on the basis of invoking of Article 355;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and basis for sending such a team to West Bengal;

(d) whether any meeting of the Inter State Council will be convened to evolve some common approach to codify the specific context of invoking Article 355;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Analysis and assessment of law and order and security scenario in the country is an ongoing process in the Central Government. Central officials are deputed to the State in this connection, when considered necessary. As stated earlier, the Central and State Governments have all along been interacting on issues relating to law and order.

(d) to (f) The Chief Minister of West Bengal has requested that a meeting of the Inter-State Council may be convened to discuss the scope, application and interpretation of article 355 of the Constitution of India. The matter is under consideration.

Measures to Boost Development of North East

4662. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Miniser of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the measures taken to boost development of the North East as decided in the Chief Ministers meeting with the Prime Minister; and

(b) the package sanctioned for North East?

of Armed Forces. The procedures is required to be followed. The Action Taken Memorandum containing Government's responses on the National Human Rights Commission's recommendations in its Annual Report for 1996-97 including inter-alia Para 3.27 of the Annual Reprot have been laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 10.6.98.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) In pursuance of the discussions in the Prime Minister's meeting with the Chief Ministers of the Eastern States and Sikkim, the Planning Commission has taken necessary action for identifying the projects to be taken up in the North Eastern Region and a budget head has been opened in the Central Government's budget for 1998-99 creating a Central Pool of Resources for funding the specific projects in the North Eastern States and Sikkim. Action has also been initiated for restructuring the North Eastern Council so that it can play more active role in the economic and social transformation of these States.

(b) In October, 1996 the then Prime Minister announced a package of New Initiatives for the development of the North East. The announcement included various schemes in priority sectors such as health, education, transport, flood control etc. There is general progress in almost all the items. of the package programme announced by the former Prime Minister.

Para-Military Forces and Army to Report Directly NHRC

4663. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Miniser of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Human Rights Commission recommended that para-military forces and Army report directly